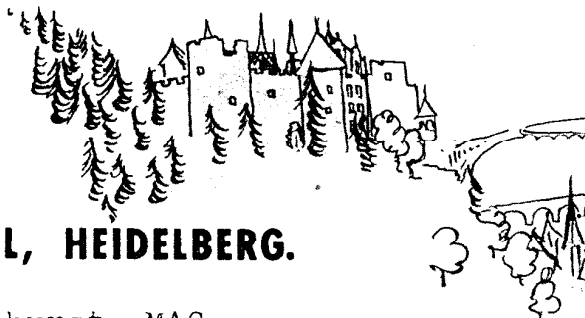


OUR ARMY HOSPITALS

130TH STATION HOSPITAL, HEIDELBERG.



by Lt. Colonel E.R. Whitehurst, MAC

On 15 July 1945, the 130th Station Hospital, then at Camp Lucky Strike, Le Havre, France, was assigned to the 7th Army for duty with the Army of Occupation. It arrived at Heidelberg, Germany, on 1 August 1945, and proceeded to Rohrbach, Germany, a small village about three miles south of Heidelberg. Here, in the Nachrichten Kaserne, it took over from the 103rd Evacuation Hospital at 0001 hours, 24 August 1945, the mission of providing station hospital facilities (750 beds) for the troops in the Heidelberg area.

The Nachrichten Kaserne was constructed by the Germans during the period from 1937 to 1939. Upon completion in 1939, it was used to house and train Signal Corps 33. At the beginning of the war in September 1939, the Signal Corps 33 moved to the front. From then on, the Kaserne was occupied by infantry and other units. In 1941 the Kaserne was changed into a hospital, which was kept in operation for nine months. After that it was re-constructed to house different units of approximately 1,500 men each. None of these units was medical. The 103rd Evacuation Hospital, together with a few non-medical units, was the first American group to occupy the Kaserne.

The 130th Station Hospital operated under practically full field conditions in two large barracks buildings without adequate space and plumbing until the summer of 1946, when a few additional buildings were completed. The plant, when completed, will consist entirely of renovated buildings and some new construction. The completion date was set originally for October 1946, but shortage of critical material has advanced this date until 31 January 1947. At this writing, it is about 80 per cent complete.

The hospital plant consists of 17 buildings connected by enclosed ramps and corridors covering approximately 14

acres of ground. (See plate Number 1). The buildings are of brick and cement construction. The hospital is heated throughout by four separate sets of low pressure steam boilers. The water supply is obtained from the Heidelberg water system--an approved source. The hospital sewerage system connects directly with that of the city of Heidelberg.

All administrative offices except post exchange, utilities, special service and motor pool are located on the first floor of the Headquarters building (Building P). The second and third floors of this building are utilized as Nurses' quarters. Since the arrival of many dependents, the majority of the bachelor officers are also quartered on the hospital grounds. The officers' club and mess are combined on the second floor of Building O. Another building needing further description is Building D. This rather long building includes a 500-seat theater, special service office, information and education offices, library, public address control system, pressing shop, ice cream bar, post exchange, barber shop, enlisted men's mess, German mess, motor pool and utility office.

The morgue and medical supply warehouse occupy the basement of Building A and linen exchange and unit supply occupy the basement of Building B. The remaining details of the hospital plan are shown in the attached plate.

This hospital serves the typical station hospital needs of the Heidelberg Area Command which includes personnel of Headquarters Third Army and many army units. Also, patients are received routinely from other large military areas, such as Karlsruhe and Mannheim. In fact, patients are received from as far away as the French Zone.

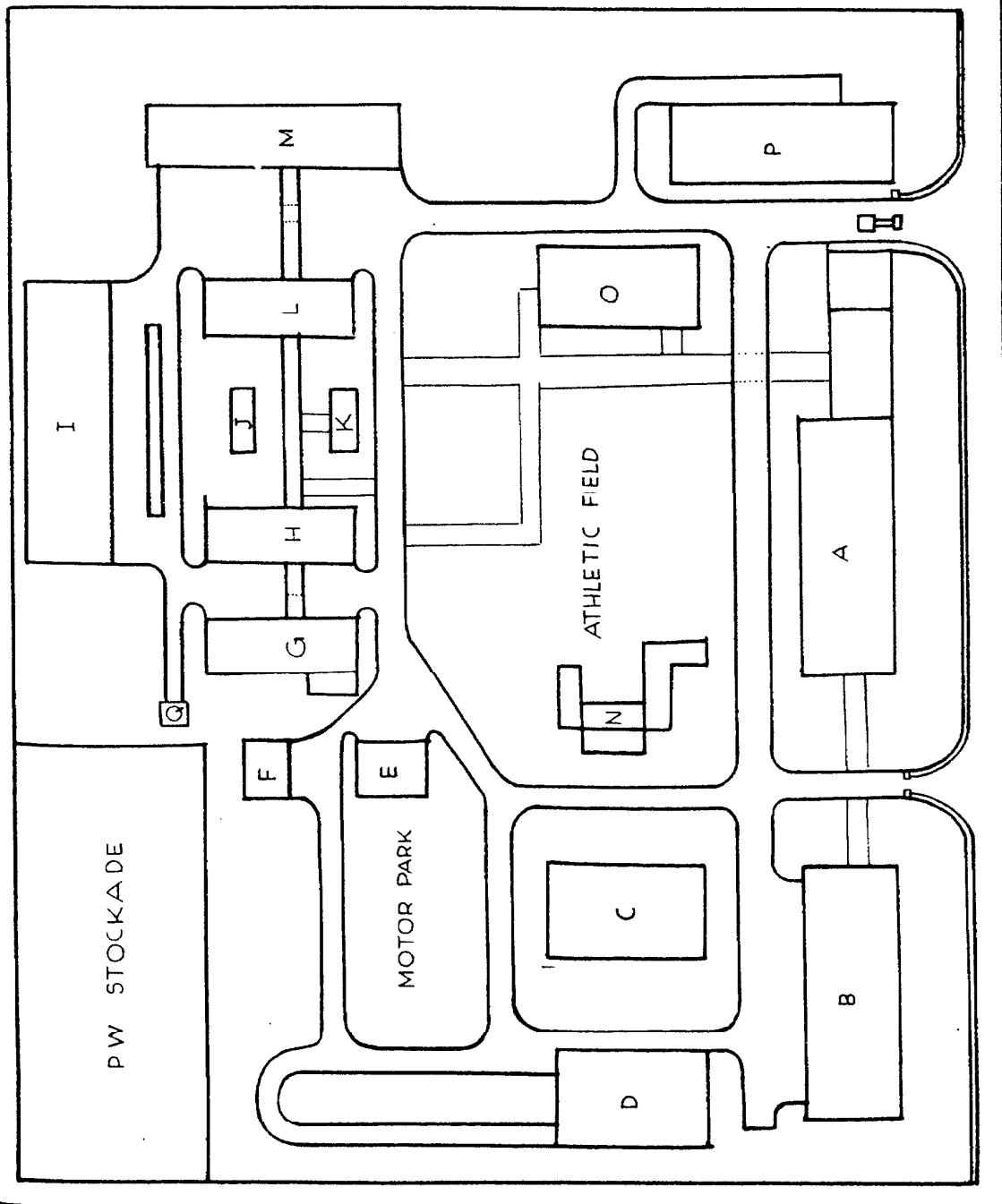
The number of persons entitled to medical service in the area is approximately 10,000. Before the arrival of dependents a complete obstetrical service was added to the hospital facilities and at the present time approximately 100 women are attending pre-natal clinics. A very attractive nursery is already in full operation.

In November 1946, the 7-chair dental clinic moved into new quarters. The clinic averages about 400 patients per month and approximately 1,200 sittings.

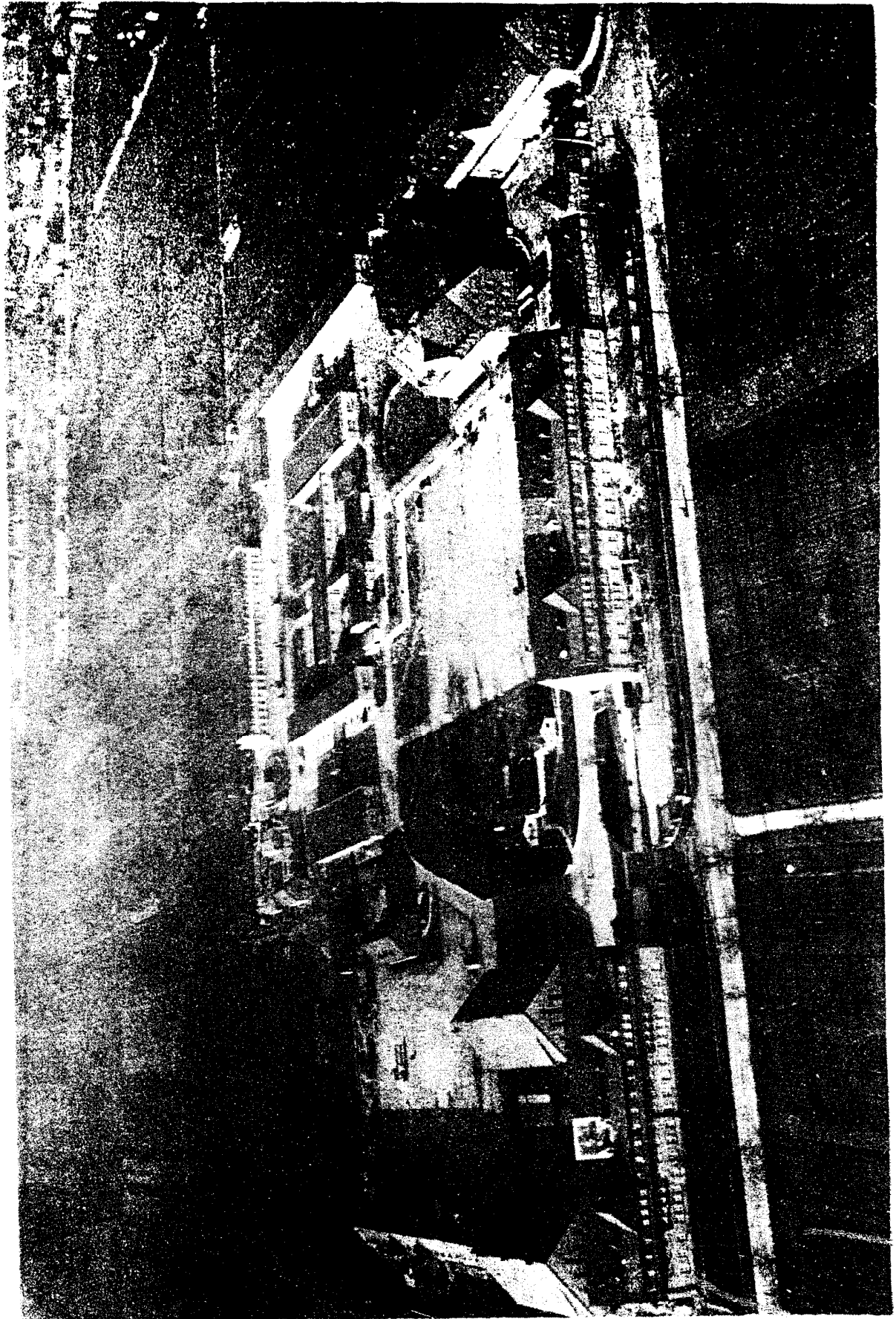
130TH STATION HOSPITAL
ROHRBACH

HOSPITAL AREA LOCATER.

- A DENTAL CLINIC, X-RAY, PT, EENT, LABORATORY, GUARD HOUSE, MORGUE ORTHOPEDIC CLINIC, EKG.
- B WARDS B-1, 2, 3, 4 WOMEN, SURGERY OFFICERS, CONTAGION, SKIN AND UPPER RESPIRATORY.
- C GYMNASIUM AND FIRE HOUSE.
- D THEATRE, POST EXCHANGE, EM MESS, UTILITIES, MOTOR POOL, SPEC. SERV, LIBRARY.
- E CHAPEL.
- F BOILER HOUSE FOR OR.
- G SURGICAL PRAVILUAN AND CENTRAL SUPPLY.
- H SURGICAL WARD.
- I DETACHMENT BARRACKS.
- J POLISH GUARD BLDG.
- K RECEIVING OFFICE DISPENSARY, PATIENTS CLOTHING, GYN AND OB CLINIC, PHARMACY, OUT PATIENTS RECORDS.
- L GENERAL MEDICAL WARDS.
- M PRISON WARD AND VD WARD.
- N RED CROSS.
- O PATIENTS MESS, OFFICERS MESS, OFF CLUB
- P HQ. BLDG, NURSES - AND OFFICERS QUARTERS.
- Q GENERATOR AND TRANSFORMER HOUSE.



Plan of the 130th Station Hospital



Aerial view of the 130th Station Hospital



Col. Paul E. Keller, MC
Commanding Officer

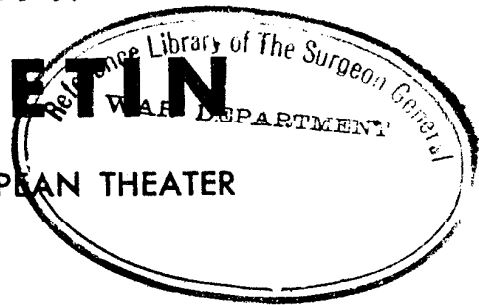
The hospital receives and disposes of approximately 800 patients per month, about 3,000 persons are seen by the out-patient services and 1,000 civilian and military physical examinations are conducted each month. During the last quarter of 1946, the hospital was reduced to 500 beds.

The close of the year found all activities in their permanent houses with the exception of the laboratory, X-ray, physical therapy, orthopedic clinic, EKG and BMR room, and ear, eye, nose and throat clinic.

No article about the 130th Station Hospital would be complete without some remark about the city of Heidelberg. First, Heidelberg is one of the very few cities in Germany that appears to be untouched by the war. Second, on account of the operetta, "The Student Prince" it is perhaps better known to Americans than any other German city except Berlin. Third, it is the seat of the famous Heidelberg University. It is a beautiful, quaint, old city located on the Neckar River, and it probably enjoys the mildest climate in Germany, although usually it is damp and rainy. Here also is located the famous Heidelberg Castle which draws many visitors. The Third Army maintains several excellent enlisted men's and officers' clubs in the city, which are open to members of this command.

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